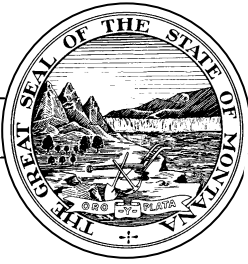


OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER



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April 10, 2012

To: Montana Public Defender Commission
From: Laura Masica, Liaison for Support Staff and Investigators
CC: Timm Twardoski, Executive Director, AFSCME Montana Council 9

I have decided to further my career and have resigned from the Office of the State Public Defender effective April 12, 2012. My almost five years with this agency have been a great learning experience and I am pleased to see some of the changes that have come along within the agency.

One of the positive changes in this agency was the addition of the commission liaisons. Although I cannot speak for the entire support staff and investigator workforce, to have the opportunity to address the commission with the concerns of staff and investigators has been a great step in opening the doors of communication between the commission and the employees. Although many times the reports from the liaison were, at best, a short statement of the status of ongoing issues such as contract negotiations, I would like to strongly urge the commission to appoint another liaison and not let this position dissipate. I would also like to suggest the possibility of a joint liaison consisting of a support staff as well as an investigator to ensure all issues are brought forward and allow the opportunity for investigators to have a separate person of contact who understands the issues at hand. My recommendation to fill this liaison position would be Cathy Huston. Cathy has been a part of the labor-management committee as well as our negotiating team and is currently the vice president of Local 2176; and as a member of the support staff and investigator executive board has direct access to other support staff and investigators around the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to allow the employees of OPD the chance to express concern to the commission through the liaison process.

Sincerely,
Laura Masica